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Dorset.

30th May, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained satisfactory, and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss. L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Noel J Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 1.

A. Area - 1650 acres.
Rateable value - £58,014
Production of a penny rate - £220.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,145

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures for - (a) North Dorset.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	36	39	(Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	33	39	(resident pop.		
Illegitimate	3	-	(= 10.5 (14.5)	15.7	15.5

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	1	-	(Rate per 1,000 (resident pop. (= 0.14	0.4	0.36

DEATHS.

Total	35	62	(Rate per 1,000 (resident pop. (= 13.6 (13.3)	13.1	12.5
Deaths in infants under one year.	3	3	(Infantile death (rate per 1,000 (live births = 80	35.0	29.6

Deaths from tuberculosis - 1

Deaths from maternal causes - 0

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop the County Council's Domestic Help Service in the district. Otherwise the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Laboratory Services, provided by the West Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee, have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E. Bean, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. Chief Sanitary Inspector.
H. Shepherd, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. Sanitary Inspector for meat inspection.

Both Inspectors are employed part-time on their respective duties. This does not impede their duties as Sanitary Inspectors or detract from the efficiency in which their duties are carried out.

Clerical staff - 3 clerks (part-time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

	1949.	1950.	1951.
Rainfall -	26.98 ins.	35.74 ins.	43.52 ins. (including 10.20 ins in November, the heaviest recorded rainfall for any one month over the past 50 years).

The supply has remained adequate in quantity throughout the year, and it has been possible to supply the Sherborne R.D.C. with 5½ million gallons of water during the year.

The quality from each source has remained satisfactory.

122 bacteriological and 6 chemical examinations were carried out in the supplies during the year. In addition 357 informal free chlorine tests were made. The water is subject to filtration and chlorination before use. On chemical examination the supplies were found to have a fluorine content of from 0.13 to 0.27 parts per million. A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. A new borehole for its own use was sunk by a Mineral Waterworks during the year. Constant supervision of these private supplies is maintained in connection with which 32 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

1906 houses in the urban district are provided with a supply direct into the house. 80 houses obtain their water supply by means of stand-pipes.

8 houses and a displaced persons camp (approximately 750 inhabitants) in the area of the Sherborne R.D.C. also have a domestic water supply from your Council.

No new works, in connection with your water undertaking, were carried out during the year.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the house drains in Terrace View, Coldharbour were found to be open jointed. The owners were approached and agreed to the renewing of the whole of the branch drains to all the cottages. This work was carried out and completed during the year.

The extension of a 9" sewer in the Bristol Road to provide for the development of the housing estate there, is under contemplation.

Consideration has been given to the best means of making the existing sewage works meet the present day requirements, in order to meet complaints which have been received with regard to effluent at present discharging from these works.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. Special collections of salvage from various business premises recommenced in January and, in an effort to increase the amounts of salvage collected, a trailer for attachment to the refuse collection vehicle was purchased and operated from the 16th July. Amounts collected were as follows:-

	Tons.	Cwts.
Paper	73.	7.
Rags		18.
Metals	6.	2.
	80.	7.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Complaints have been received from the River Board regarding pollution of the River Yeo from Council's Sewage Works. In this connection two samples of effluent were taken by your officers during the year, both of which proved satisfactory.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	83
No. of defects found	14
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	16	12	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	44	33	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	3	Nil
Total -	63	48	Nil

	No. of cases in which defects were - Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Sanitary Conveniences -			
(a) insufficient	6	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	1	1
(c) not separate for sexes	2	-	-
Total -	10	1	1

No. of outworkers = 53

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations were carried out throughout the year and informal action taken on three occasions.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district, available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority, when the water is chlorinated.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination and residual chlorine estimation all proved satisfactory.

10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

No. of movable dwellings licensed during the year	5
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	5

Movable dwellings and caravans are licensed for three monthly periods. Informal consideration has been given to the establishment of an approved camping site, which can be provided with all the necessary sanitary amenities, and which will be more satisfactory than the sites at present in use. Up to the end of the year no such site has been found. Under normal circumstances no demand for a permanent camping site should be required in your urban district, but with the present housing shortage some persons, however undesirable this may be, have no alternative but to live for indefinite periods in caravans.

It is, therefore, highly desirable that these caravans should be stationed on a site which, whilst not spoiling the amenities of the district, does provide adequate sanitary facilities for permanent use. Such a site could also be usefully utilised by trailer caravans in transit during the holiday periods of the year. It is hoped that some progress will soon be able to be made in the establishment of such a site.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

In one instance premises found to be flea infested were dealt with during the year. The method of disinfestation used being liquid D.D.T.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities now cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. An increase in the staff and activities of this Committee is proposed at the present time.

The scheme of this Joint Committee has worked satisfactorily in your district, and the sewage disposal works and the controlled tip are under contract to the Committee as are five other business premises in the town. There are 11 agricultural properties in the district and 5 contracts in respect to these are held by the Dorset Agricultural Executive Committee.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises	Nil
No. of licensed premises	Nil
No. of inspections carried out	Nil

Notice has been given to any firms which it was considered might require to be registered or licensed under the Act, but no applications have been received in respect to such premises.

14. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

By agreement with the County Council, the Council carried out drain tests at schools and canteens controlled by the Dorset County Council in the district. Several defects were found and notified to the appropriate authority and the conditions remain under observation.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

No action was required to be taken during the year under Section 47 of this Act with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living in insanitary conditions.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1)	(a) No. of houses inspected during the year	15
	(b) No. of inspections made	28
(2)	(1) No. of informal notices served	4
	(2) No. of informal notices complied with	4
	(3) No. of statutory notices served	Nil
	(4) No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
(3)	(1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil
	(2) Action taken by the local authority in respect to such houses -	
	(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
	(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
	(i) Closure	Nil
	(ii) Re-conditioning	Nil

(4) Overcrowding.

(a) No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority _____ 13
(b) No. of cases of overcrowding abated _____ 3
(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding _____ 1

Total number of houses in the district _____ 1280

Requisitioned Premises etc.

9 houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. 11 houses, on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Traditional Type.
(a) During 1951	Nil	38
(b) Post-war	40	131 (including 22 special dwellings for aged persons)

Total number of families re-housed during 1951 _____ 46

By private enterprise 9 new houses were built, and by conversion 2 additional units of accommodation were provided.

Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants.

No application for an Improvement Grant under this Act was received during the year.

I see little prospect of the facilities offered by this Act having any material effect on present housing conditions. Any work in connection with which a Grant is given has to be carried out under the general 'licensing ceiling' of the local authority in respect to repair and other similar work. For this reason, even though a local authority may be anxious to publicize the availability of these grants and encourage the 'improvement' of sub-standard property within its district, it is realized that to do so would be totally impracticable if, at the same time, it is not possible to issue the necessary licences within the limited 'licensing ceiling'.

Furthermore, where improvements are contemplated in property already requiring extensive repair work (and this applies to a considerable proportion of the property where 'improvements' are desirable) the improvement of such dwellings becomes economically impossible by reason of limitations imposed by the Rent Restriction Acts referred to below.

During the year 16 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 28 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Comments.

It will be seen from the above mentioned figures that 38 new houses were provided by the Council compared with 14 provided during the preceding year. Although no material action was taken in respect to dwellings in the district which are sub-standard or even unfit for human habitation, it is hoped that this question will receive consideration by the Council early in the new year.

At the end of the year there were 271 applicants for Council houses, of which 205 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 304 of which 224 were resident in the district.

General Remarks.

The provision of new houses alone cannot be expected to solve the present housing problem. Indeed, the present indications are that an increasing number of applicants are finding that they cannot afford to pay the rents now charged, and some authorities are seriously considering whether, with their present resources, they can afford financially to continue providing new houses to the extent they have done in the past.

The concurrent repair, reconditioning and 'improvement' of existing older houses is as equally necessary as the provision of new houses. It may be argued that the existing Housing Law gives a local housing authority full power to carry out their duties in this direction. Even if this may be so, an authority fully conscious of its responsibilities with regard to sub-standard property, is understandably reluctant to take action when it is clearly apparent that even the most benevolent landlord finds it economically impossible to maintain his existing property in a reasonable state of repair because of the present limitation imposed by the Rent Restriction Acts.

A modification of these Acts in favour of the landlord who is prepared to keep his property in a fit condition is urgently called for if many people, now living in unfit property and who have neither the means nor the desire to live in new Council houses, are to live under reasonable conditions.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

(a) No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 ____ 5

(b) No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 ____ 1

(c) No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 ____ 4

(d) No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 ____ 5

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested / Accredited	13
Pasteurised	224
Ungraded	22

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	26
No. of such premises which are restaurant kitchens	6
hotel kitchens	15
food factories	5

No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected ____ 10
No. inspected being - restaurant kitchens ____ 4
hotel kitchens ____ 1
food factories ____ 5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 ____ 26
No. of such premises registered in respect to -
(a) Ice-cream ____ 26
(b) Sausages & prepared meats ____ 3
No. of such premises inspected during the year ____ 21

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test ____ 75

Results:- Grade 1 - 61
2 - 4
3 - 7
4 - 3

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. Work has now been completed on the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in South Street, and the conditions there have now been brought up to a satisfactory standard. The Cheap Street slaughterhouse is now no longer in use.

Carcases inspected and condemned.				
	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	2411	1100	2100	97
Number inspected	2411	1000	1800	97
All disease except tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned	13	5	3	3
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	463	8	179	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	15.56	1.19	8.67	12.38
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcase condemned	15	-	-	6
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	373	-	-	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	16.15	-	-	23.38

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned - 26¾ lbs. gammon
42¾ lbs. bacon
126 tins meat

Other foods condemned - 234 tins assorted foodstuffs
175 lbs. assorted foodstuffs
60 dozen eggs.
2 jars pineapple.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out ____ 1
No. of disinfections carried out ____ 1

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	194
Total No. of informal notices served	7
Total No. of informal notices complied with	7
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Whooping cough	12
Measles	345
Pneumonia	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Paratyphoid Fever	1
Scarlet fever	1

It will be noticed that there was an increased prevalence of measles which carried on throughout the whole of the first half of the year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
10	2	1	-

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit of the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited Sherborne during October. Including the pupils at the Kings School and the Girls School, a total number of 2,222 persons presented themselves for X-ray. As a result 11 of these persons were referred to the Chest Clinic as probably tuberculous, another 5 were referred to hospital or their private doctors for other conditions.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.